



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**
Sid Morrison
Secretary of Transportation

Aviation Division

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Dear Airport Sponsor:

We look forward with great anticipation to the opportunities new technology will provide aviation in the 21st Century and one of the most exciting tools is the utilization of Global Positioning Satellite approach technology. The complexity of GPS technology, coupled with conflicting information about GPS implementation and the reality of development delays leaves most of us scratching our heads and wondering.

To bridge that information gap, the Washington State Department of Transportation Aviation Division, in partnership with the Federal Aviation Administration created this information package to help clarify the implementation process of the GPS precision instrument approach program, known as WAAS. WAAS stands for the Wide Area Augmentation System and the program will provide satellite-based navigation capability for all phases of flight from enroute through precision approach.

The Washington State Department of Transportation Aviation Division supports the development and implementation of this new technology. It is important to us that airport sponsors have a clear understanding about the implementation realities of the WAAS program: timing of satellite coverage, facility requirements and land use requirements. The satellite precision instrument approach is not off-the-shelf technology and the program is experiencing development delays. However, the FAA is committed to implementing the WAAS program throughout the United States during the first decade of the 21st Century.

Airport sponsors have much work ahead to prepare airports for a WAAS approach particularly for precision approach minimums of less than 3/4 mile. Based on existing obstructions and facility provisions, not all airports will be able to achieve the requirements for a precision approach of less than 3/4 mile. The enclosed information package will shed light on what to expect and more importantly, how and what to plan for the implementation of a GPS precision instrument approach.

The Federal Aviation Administration and the Washington State Department of Transportation Aviation Division look forward to working with you in forging ahead into the next generation of precision approach technology.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Brubaker".

Bill Brubaker
Director for Aviation